THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES.

MANY MYTHICAL STORIES AFLOAT ABOUT LEGISLATIVE BILLS.

Unwarranted Use of Citizens Names in Regard to an Annexation Bill—Third Class City Rumors are Unfounded.—The Changes Resulting from the Codification of the Town Laws the only ones Likely to Effect this Town.

There is a constant and persistent uprising and recurrence of rumors of proposed great and important changes in the mode of government of this municipality. Free use of names of well-known citizens is made in connection with these rumors. One time it is an annexation to Newark bill that is rumored, and then again it is a third-class city bill, and then again it is a repetition of the Glen Ridge movement by the formation of a borough government out of some section of the town.

These numerous rumors appear to be without foundation of fact. When the people who are named as the promoters of them are questioned they deny all knowledge of the alleged plans and schemes, and the denials are emphatic and leave no ground for doubt. Beyond the changes that may result from the codification of the town acts, a work now in progress, there is no ground for expecting any great changes in local government.

All the rumors afloat now about proposed changes appear to be simply mythical. It takes money and influence to bring about such changes, and above both of these is the disagreeable contest that would ensue between opposing factions. Some enthusiastic annexationists, because they meet a dozen or more citizens of the same mind as themselves, at once jump to the erroneous conclusion that the entire people of the town are a unit for annexation, but bring the people of the town face to face with the issue, and the opposition sentiment will show surprising strength and numbers. The men who could no doubt push through an annexation scheme are well aware of the deep rooted sentiment yet inherent here in favor of independence, and they do not propose to place themselves in disagreeable antagonism with one-half or perhaps two-thirds of their fellow-townsmen.

Some well-known citizens, and who have considerable influence in the community, in both a public and political way, are indifferent on this subject of annexation to Newark. To them it makes only a difference of a few dollars in taxation one way or the other.

The only particular change needed in the form of government in vogue here is conceded by many people to be one that will relieve the Town Council of the duties of an excise board and place that responsibility on a separate body elected by the people. It is assumed that if such a change could be effected it would prove beneficial both to the Council and the people. The following from the *Montclair Times* is a sample of the rumors afloat about contemplated governmental changes here:

Bloomfield is planning to incorporate as a city, and preliminary steps for legislative sanction are being taken by a committee intrusted with the details. This looks as though the people of Bloomfield were determined more than ever to oppose annexation to Newark. Raised to the municipal status of a city government it will be just as reasonable to purpose that Bloomfield be annexed to East Orange or Orange as to Newark, as Bloomfield is contiguous and adjacent to all three. Each is a city, the difference being one of size and the number of inhabitants. Besides a city government, even of the third class, is preferable to that of a town in being more clearly defined and less susceptible to incongruities, legal stumbling blocks and anomalies. In a town the head of the governing body is also a member of it and has the same voting power as any other Councilman. He is required, by law, to approve the acts which he himself has helped to pass, and thus the executive and legislative functions are performed by one and the same official. In a city the Mayor may approve or veto the acts of the Council. A majority vote is always subject to his concurrence or disapproval and formality sometimes gives indirect expression to public sentiment, and acts as a sort of referendum in relation to matters affecting the community at large.

Class Organization.

The Watsessing School graduating class held its first meeting Wednesday, the 3d inst., and elected the following officers: Miss Florence Hanlon, President; Mr. Fred Kern, Vice-President; Miss Laura Wyker, Secretary, and Miss Carrie Kreeger, Treasurer. The following committees were appointed: Class Pins, Miss Helen Corras, Chairman; Class Colors, Miss Gertrude Proudfoot, Chairman; Decorations, Miss Beatrice Schofield, Chairman.

A Disastrous Fire.

A disastrous fire occurred on East Passaic avenue, Brookdale, Tuesday night, when a barn on the premises of Jacob Zimmerer, the dairy man, was destroyed, entailing a loss of about $2,000 worth of live stock and property. Five cows, three horses, and one mule were burned to death. About twelve tons of hay, a quantity of straw, and a lot of farming utensils were also destroyed. The barn building and its contents were partially insured. The fire was a fierce one and burned rapidly. The heat was so intense that no one could get near the building to rescue the imprisoned animals.

The cause of the fire is a mystery. Mr. Zimmerer says that the work of attending to the live stock in the barn was completed about six o'clock in the evening, and no one had occasion to be about the barn after that time. It was about eight o'clock when Mrs. Schwartz, Mr. Zimmerer's mother-in-law discovered that the barn was on fire and gave the alarm. The fire had then made great headway. Neighbors came to the assistance, but could do no more than drag some wagons and other things outside of the barn away from the reach of the flames. The snow on the roofs of other nearby buildings prevented them from catching fire from the embers that fell on them.

An alarm of fire from box No. 44 was rung, and the fire department responded. Excelsior Hose Company went up Myrtle avenue to the fire and could not get to it on account of it being on the other side of the canal. The Truck Company and Phœnix Hose Company got as far as the foot of the Franklin avenue hill, when Chief Higgins ordered the companies to return to their headquarters. The chief says that it was almost impossible for the companies to reach the scene of the fire. The nearest hydrant to Mr. Zimmerer's place is on Franklin avenue just west of the canal bridge. It is what is known as a dead end hydrant, and the chief says the water would have frozen in the hose pipe if any attempt had been made to carry a stream to the fire.

A Dog's Dilemma.

There was great excitement in Glen Ridge Borough Tuesday afternoon, when a valuable Agredale terrier owned by Thomas Masson chased a cat into a pipe used for drainage purposes at Woodland and Ridgewood avenues. The cat, which was smaller than its canine aggressor, managed to get through the pipe, the latter being partly filled with ice, but the dog got stuck.

Some one saw the entry of the cat and dog and the reappearance of the cat only, and told the dog's owner. While his natural humor ebullited some, he still saw a tragedy in prospect, and, calling on his neighbors, asked them for suggestions how to get the dog out of its predicament and the pipe.

In truly humorous fashion he tried to coax the dog out, as if the cat hadn't done coaxing enough. Then the owner got to work after "jollying" the borough authorities into allowing him to dig up the pipe.

He hired a gang of workmen to dig the frozen pipes out of the frozen earth, and in the meantime sent to this town for $5 worth of wood, which was piled above the frozen pipe and set on fire in the hope that a thaw would ensue and give the terrier more room to do the exit act, but the dog still stuck in the pipe. Finally the pipe was extracted from the earth and the dog was found wedged in the pipe a distance of about four feet. The animal was uninjured, and when released showed its gratitude by licking the hands of its various rescuers.

Several hundred people witnessed the rescue and heartily cheered the workmen who labored several hours to accomplish it.

East Orange Water Mains.

Plans and specifications for section No. 2 of the East Orange water works were adopted by the City Council of that place at a special meeting called for the purpose Monday night. Councilman Yardley submitted the specifications, which embraced forty-five typewritten pages, and after C. C. Vermeule, the engineer, had explained the various sections the Council approved them and directed that bids be received on February 23.

This section of the work begins at South Orange avenue and Clinton street, and extends to White Oak Ridge. Mr. Yardley stated that Wyoming avenue would be graded by the city in return for the privilege of laying pipes there, and this, it is estimated, will cost $3,500.

A Water Bill.

Senator Bacheller introduced a bill in the Senate Monday night authorizing municipalities having a water supply to contract with other municipalities for a supply of water, and permitting the issuance of bonds for the construction of the necessary pipe lines and works of such supply.

FINANCES AND TAXES.

All Out-standing Notes of the Current Year Retired—The Council Asks the Collector for a List of Personal Tax Delinquents—Town Attorney Requested to Attend Meeting of State Board of Taxation.

Councilman John R. Conlan, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, submitted the monthly report of Town Treasurer Harry L. Osborne, at the Council meeting Monday night. Mr. Conlan recommended that the treasurer be authorized to retire outstanding town notes to the amount of $20,000. The payment of these notes, Mr. Conlan said, retired all the notes issued this year in anticipation of taxes, and also paid $6,000 of notes carried over from last year. The town finances, he said, were now in excellent shape.

Mr. Conlan also recommended that in view of the fact that so many tax cases had been appealed from the local Board of Commissioners of Appeal to the State Board of Taxation, the Legal Committee of the Council make arrangements with the Town Attorney to be present when the cases are heard by the State Board, and look after the town's interests.

Tax Collector Frank Foster, Mr. Conlan said, had called the attention of the Finance Committee to the large amount of personal tax arrearages on the tax books. The collector, said Mr. Conlan, wants the advice of the Council as to the method to be pursued in enforcing the collection of unpaid personal taxes.

Town Attorney Halfpenny said that the collection of the unpaid personal taxes could be enforced.

Councilman Moore said it would be a good thing for the Council to know who the personal tax delinquents are. Some of them in his opinion were able to pay their taxes, and a motion made by him was adopted, under which the tax collector is requested to furnish to the Council a list of all those persons who are in arrears for personal taxes for the years 1901, 1902, and 1903.

When the Council gets this list of delinquents some idea can be formed as to the best methods to be pursued in collecting the taxes due the town. The collector of course can cause the arrest and imprisonment of delinquents, but it will not be necessary to go to that extreme in the majority of cases. The new tax laws are very strict in regard to the collection of taxes, and the general tenor of all recent legislation in the matter of taxes is in the direction of compulsory payment.

Cat Had Diphtheria.

Health Inspector Bowman, who safeguards the health of East Orange, met with an unusual case of diphtheria in his rounds this week, when he visited the home of a well-known resident, where the disease had broken out. A member of the family was ill, and after giving the necessary directions for quarantining the patient and seeing that all proper precautions had been taken to prevent any possible spread of the disease, Mr. Bowman made some inquiries as to the possible source of the disease.

Nothing was developed from the catechizing by Mr. Bowman, when the official noticed the family cat which familiarly rubbed itself against his legs. The feline paused frequently to sneeze, and an idea struck the health inspector that the cat might have communicated the disease. He therefore decided to more carefully notice the animal.

About its mouth he noticed a sort of froth and decided to have an investigation made. Cultures taken from the cat were examined, and in these diphtheria germs were found.

Constables Duped.

Constables Gorham and Gillmann of Belleville reported Monday that they had been the victims of an individual who pretended to be an officer and received a reward intended for them. The Belleville men stopped a runaway team of horses attached to an Orange brewery wagon several nights ago while on Mill street. They took the rig to a Soho stable and telephoned to the owners, who advised the constables to take care of them until they could be returned. When they communicated with the brewery later they were informed that the truck and horses had been taken to Orange by a man who said he was a Belleville officer. The managers said they had paid him $2 for his time and trouble. Now the constables are looking for the pretended officer.

Some Fine Music.

The managers of the Jarvie Memorial Library are making arrangements for two or three concerts to be given in March and April. The Bauver-Kronold String Quartette has been engaged for March 8 and April 7. This quartette enjoys a reputation second only to the Kneisel Quartette of Boston. With Michael Bauver as solo violinist, and Hans Kronold as solo 'cellist, there can be no doubt that a rare treat is in store for the music-loving people of this town.

PLEASING CONCERT

Given in the Park M. E. Church Thursday Night Under the Auspices of the Park Choral Union—An Appreciative Audience Enthusiastically Applauded the Work of the Young People.

The Park Choral Union gave a concert in the Park M. E. Church Thursday night. It was the second concert given under the auspices of the Union, and while the attendance was not as large as at the first concert, the church was well filled and those present enjoyed a pleasant evening's entertainment. Mr. Robert Warnock, director of the Choral Union, conducted the concert, and Miss Mary Berstecher preside at the piano. The assisting soloists were Mrs. Nellie Bennett Fugle, soprano, Mr. William Gordon Gaunt, bass, and Mr. J. S. Leick, cornet. The programme was as follows:

Part First.

Chorus, Oh Italia, Italia, Beloved, — Lucrezia
Soprano solo, Coquette, — Leo Stern
Mrs. Nellie Bennett Fugle.
Chorus, Moonlight, — Faning
Cornet solo, Air Varie Du Du, — Levy
J. S. Leick.
Bass solo, Hybrias the Cretan, — J. W. Elliott
Mr. W. Gordon Gaunt.
Chorus, Song of the Vikings, — Faning

Part Second.

Soprano solos, (a) In Autumn, — O. Well
(b) Spring Song, — "
Mrs. Nellie Bennett Fugle.
Chorus, So Saith My Fair, — Luca Marenzio
Cornet Solo, — Selected
J. S. Leick.
Bass Solo, At the Sound of the Sun Set Gun, — J. W. Bratton
Mr. W. Gordon Gaunt.
Chorus, Good Night, Farewell, — Garrett

The Choral Union acquitted itself in a highly pleasing manner in the several choruses. The first number on the programme in particular was sweetly rendered, and the sixth number, "The Song of the Vikings," evoked enthusiastic applause, and the Union responded to an encore, and the concluding chorus was also finely rendered.

The soprano soloist, Mrs. Fugle proved herself a splendid vocalist, and her work was one of the features of the concert. She was encored at each appearance. Mr. W. Gordon Gaunt, the bass soloist, was also well received. Mr. Leick, the cornetist, aroused the enthusiasm of the audience in the highest degree and his skillful work was greatly appreciated. Miss Mary Berstecher was the recipient of an appreciative testimonial of her valuable assistance to the Union in the form of a beautiful floral gift. The chorus was arranged as follows:

Sopranos—Miss Etta Mae Brown, Miss Wiletta Baldwin, Miss Florence Carl, Miss Carrie Clark, Miss M. M. Dorr, Miss Bertha Gilbert, Miss Lillian Galloway, Miss Florence Hunt, Miss Emily Rawson, Miss Edith Rhodes, Miss Mabie Warnock, Miss May Wilson.

Altos—Miss Elsie Carl, Miss Helen Clark, Miss Edith Decker, Miss Ida Hobby, Miss Viola Kerr, Miss Lulu Mueller, Miss Florence Pierson, Miss Cora Wilson.

Tenors—Fred Fiefield, Albert Dawkins, Irving Dorr, James Dupree, Shelton Ware, Robert Warnock, Jr.

Basses—Fred Blight, Wm. Dawkins, W. G. Gaunt, Wm. Sharp, Crawford Smith, Luther Smith, John Tidaback, T. R. Wilson, Abram Wilson.

The officers of the Choral Union are Abram Wilson, President: Wm. Sharp, Vice-President; Miss Wiletta Baldwin, Secretary; Miss Lulu Mueller, Treasurer; Mr. Robert Warnock, Director, Miss Mary Berstecher, Pianist.

For Old Soldiers.

The Women's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of William S. Pierson Post, G. A. R., is going to send a Washington's Birthday box to the Home for Old Soldiers at Vineland. There are upwards of sixty old soldiers and their wives in the Vineland home. The box will be filled with clothing, books and smoking utensils for the men, and sewing material, patchwork, yarns and other materials for women's work for the women. Donations of any of the above articles or any other things that people may deem useful and enjoyable to the old people will be thankfully received by the members of the Relief Corps. Donations must be made by the 15th inst., and can be sent to Nathan Russell's office at the Centre, or to Mrs. J. M. Bancroft, No. 40 Beach street.

Old Mexico and Arizona.

The personally conducted tour of thirty days in Old Mexico and Arizona, which is being arranged by Division Passenger Agent Adams of the Lackawanna, will leave February 19, and a number of prominent New Jerseyites will join the party. They will travel by a special train of Pullman's latest cars and all meals except while in the city of Mexico will be had on the train. After reaching San Antonio, Texas, the train will as a rule run at night, leaving the days for visiting the historical points in Mexico. The Grand Canyon of Arizona will be one of the interesting sights of the trip.

PROTECT your securities and valuable papers against FIRE and BURGLARS by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vaults of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at $4.00 per year and upwards.—*Adv.*

Trouble Over Water.

The Orange Common Council Monday night passed a resolution authorizing the Water Committee to engage an engineer to invetigate and report upon the best plan for increasing the water supply and the pressure, the engineer to work in conjunction with the city engineer. This last clause was not embodied in the resolution as introduced by Alderman Perry, and a request was at once made by Alderman Shoenthal for information as to why the city engineer could not present a plan. Mr. Perry said that he was prepared to answer the query as to the engineer's capabilities, but he did know that five years ago the city employed an outside engineer when the present extensions were made. He said it was not intended to spend a lot of money for plans and specifications until it was known what the work would cost. An engineer had already given a rough sketch of a plan, he said, which was about all the city could get without charge.

The city engineer, Mr. Perry went on to say, had had no experience in hydraulics, and a part of the plan under consideration is to use hydraulic pumps which are partly constructed. Had the complete scheme been carried out five years ago, he continued, the hydraulic pumps would have been completed and the city would have saved several thousands of dollars for coal.

Mr. Shoenthal said he approved of the hydraulic pump, but he thought it well to have the city engineer go over the details. Mr. Perry replied that the engineer would have plenty to do if the plan of boring through the mountain was carried out.

"I think it would be well to call on the city engineer first," said Alderman Shaw. "I believe the whole system is a failure. It cost $90,000, and what have you got?"

"I should like to state to the gentleman who is a member of the Water Committee, and who doesn't attend its meetings, that if he went there he would get some information," replied Mr. Perry. "The reason why the plant is a partial failure is because the hydraulics have not been used."

"The hydraulics wouldn't help much with the present main," was Mr. Shaw's retort.

Alderman Berry wanted to know if there was any limit as to the compensation of the engineer. Mr. Perry said the committee proposed to find out what the work would cost before agreeing upon any plans. The usual charge of an engineer is two and one-half per cent. for the plans and specifications and five per cent. for superintending the work. The committee did not propose, he said, to agree to this, as was done a few years ago, when $1,000 was paid for plans which were never used. Alderman Coughtry suggested that the city engineer cooperate with the consulting engineer, and eht resolution was adopted.

Vogel-Mechler Wedding.

Our good Democratic friend, Michael Vogel of Glenmont, was married Wednesday morning, January 27, the bride being Miss Anne C. Mechler of Glen Ridge, New Jersey. The ceremony took place at the Catholic church in Glenmont, with a nuptial high mass, the ceremony being preformed by Rev. A. L. Leininger of Zanesville, an uncle of the bride, assisted by Rev. J. H. Wagner of Millersburg. Mr. Vogel is a leading young business man, of sound judgment and comes from an estimable family who have always resided in this country. The bride is an accomplished young lady and a native of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, a suburb of Newark and the home of the late Admiral Sampson. She is a niece of Mrs. Joseph Weigand of this place and has been here for some time. Immediately after the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served, after which Mr. and Mrs. Vogel took the 9:26 train for an extended trip to points in New Jersey, New York and Brooklyn, returning via Washington, Zanesville and Columbus. They will be at home to their friends in Glenmont after March 1. The *Farmer* congratulates them and wishes them all the prosperity that a happy married life can bring.—*Homes Ohio Farmer.*

Death of Gaven Spence.

Gaven Spence, who had been engaged in the jewelry business in Newark for nearly half a century, died in that city quite suddenly last Sunday of anaemia. Mr. Spence was born in this town April 24, 1826, and at the age of seventeen he went to New York to learn the watchmaking trade. At the expiration of his apprenticeship he came to Newark and worked at the bench for five years, after which he opened a general jewelry store on Broad street below William, where he remained until the time of his death. Mr. Spence was one of the original charter members of the First Methodist Protestant Church, Newark. He had been actively interested in its affairs since its organization in 1859. He held important official positions in several boards of the church, and was for many years Superintendent of the Sunday-school. The funeral took place on Wednesday, and the remains were brought here for interment.

AGAIN DELAYED.

THE COUNCIL TOOK NO ACTION IN FIRE MATTERS MONDAY NIGHT.

The Illness of Mr. Farrand Caused the Postponement—Councilman Walker Had a Proposition to Present—Other Members of the Council at Work on Plans for Fire Houses.

The absence of Councilman Farrand, Chairman of the Fire Committee, from the Council meeting on Monday night prevented any action by the Council on the fire-house matter. Mr. Farrand was unable to be present on account of serious illness. There was a large attendance of firemen present, to whom the announcement of postponement of action was a great disappointment. Councilman Jas. M. Walker of the Second Ward, who has all along opposed the purchase of the R. N. Dodd building for municipal purposes, was present with a counter proposition. He said that he had an option on property, plans for a building, and estimates of the cost of construction. Mr. Walker said he much regretted the absence of Mr. Farrand, but out of courtesy to him as Chairman of the Fire Committee, he would not officially submit his proposition and plans.

After the Council had adjourned the firemen and others were given an opportunity to inspect Mr. Walker's plans for a new fire-house. The location for a fire-house on which Mr. Walker claimed he had an option is a part of Mrs. Amzi Dodd's property on the south side of Bloomfield avenue, and adjoining Thos. H. Decker's livery stable property. The plot has a frontage of fifty feet on Bloomfield avenue. The price of the plot is said to be $3,750. The plan for the building is for a two-story brick structure, 32 feet front and 60 feet deep. The profile drawings show an attractive building. The floor shows a building for fire purposes only, and is to accommodate two fire companies. The cost of the building is estimated at $10,000. It was generally conceded by all who examined the plans that the proposed building would make an attractive house for the two fire companies that it was proposed to locate there. The ground and building involved in Mr. Walker's plans necessitate an expenditure of $13,750, according to preliminary estimates. The actual cost would probably be about $15,000.

The majority of those present, while they admitted that Mr. Walker's proposition was a meritorious one, contended that the location was not what was wanted by the firemen, and the cost was excessive compared with the additional advantages that the town secured in the R. N. Dodd building, over and above the accommodations of the two fire companies. Mr. Walker's plan for fire-houses alone, it was pointed out, would cost $15,000, while the R. N. Dodd building, costing $20,000, provided not only more ample accommodations for fire purposes, but also provided office and storage-room for allpurposes for which the town pays rent.

The delay on the part of the Council in acting on the fire-house matter has led to a deplorable division of sentiment among members of the Fire Department over various features of the proposed undertaking. Members of the two companies which it is proposed to accommodate in the combination fire-house, are at odds over the selection of a site. There is also a difference of opinion as to the kind of a building that should be erected. Some want the matter of town offices and a fire-house kept separate, and think that the Fire Committee should concern itself with fire-houses alone.

The next meeting of the Council may see a third proposition for a fire-house building submitted for consideration. It is understood that Councilman Moore, Mr. Farrand's colleague in the Fire Committee, is at work on a scheme for fire-houses that he will submit to the Council, and which will involve a less expenditure than either of the propositions now before that body.

Another suggestion that has been made to the members of the Council, but not in an official way, is that the Council purchase a site for a fire-house in a suitable location and erect upon it for the present a one-story structure that will provide for two fire companies, the building to be erected in a manner that will permit of the addition of a story or two to its heighth as public needs require it. If the Council continues to delay action upon the fire-house matter, numerous other propositions may be available before long. If the discussion of the subject is sufficiently prolonged it will be sure to figure as an issue in the local election.

Personal Tax Delinquents.

The list of delinquent personal tax payers for three years past which is to be publicly read at the next meeting of the Town Council will no doubt prove an interesting document, and many surprises are in store for those who may attend the Council meeting to hear the names read off.

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